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To whom it may concern 2011 NOV 30 P 2:03

I am writing about the closing of the Plowes Post Office in Plowes, Iowa.

I know that we all have to conserve money and cutting budgets and/or maybe closing some post offices is your answer. But have you really considered what you are doing to Rural America? For some people that (Post Office) is their only contact with people on a daily basis; especially the elderly. In Plowes if the people in the community notice that their mail isn't picked up or they don't show up; we (the people) call to be sure they are alright. (ie - not sick or have fallen). If you close our Post Office no one will know if the mail has been picked up. Many elderly do not have the resources to move to a bigger community; nor do they desire to move as this has been their home for many years.

You say that a person can get on line to order stamps, print labels etc from the postal department. What about the

people who don't have a computer or internet access? You might say well go to your local library, to get on the computer for postal information; but our library has limited hours so the access is limited.

Who is responsible if a person should fall while getting their mail from the cluster box? Where does the liability lie? Who will keep the snow cleaned around these boxes? Did you figure in that expense? In this day no one does much for nothing!

The lady who owns the building where our Post Office is located is very easy to deal with. She is a retired Postmaster. The rent and utilities are very reasonable. One might say cheap! Our building is already handicap accessible, ie - the counter has been lowered for a wheelchair and we do have people in wheelchairs in town, who do use it. We have a ramp up to the door. The building has had many recent updates. I fail to see with all the money the Postal department

has spent in the last couple of years; why you are so willing to close our office.

Many people like the personal contact you get when mailing a package or buying stamps. I get a feeling you want to take away that from the rural areas. The closest next Post Office is approximately 15 miles. Many people around our small town like using the Post Office because it has a warm and inviting appeal to them.

Our Post Office is a place where public notices, city events, minutes of various meetings are pasted. We have no place else to post these, and state law states such things need to be posted for the public.

If you have shortened the hours our Post Office is open. And our P.M.R. get no benefits and by shortening of hours her hours have been cut also. The people of our small community have worked to accept these conditions. We are willing to give if only the postal system will work with us to keep the Post Office open. Many sacrifices

have been made already one would think some compromises could be made.

We are like a lot of small rural communities we have had a population decline. But we are fighting back. Recently some of the businesses are expanding and we have had some young families move into town. We have started to see a revitalization of our community. We are afraid that by closing the Post Office it will have an adverse effect on our community. We are asking the Postal system to rethink their decision to close the Plover Post Office in Plover, Iowa. Our fear that by closing the Plover Post Office is it may be the straw that broke the camels back.

Thank You
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